Japanese nuclear crisis level raised

Japan has raised the severity level at the Fukushima nuclear plant from 5 to 7 - the highest level on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

The move places the crisis on a par with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. the worst atomic power accident in history

of radioactive material

Major release

annual limit for

Exposure of

one member

Exposure of

one member

statutory

annual limit

of public above

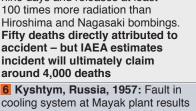
of public in

excess of 10 milliSieverts

workers

7 Chernobyl. Ukraine. 1986: Reactor number four explodes after experiment. Resulting fire burns for 100 times more radiation than

nine days and releases at least Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Fifty deaths directly attributed to Significant accident - but IAEA estimates release of 6 incident will ultimately claim radioactive material



Limited in non-nuclear explosion of dried release of waste that releases up to 80 tonnes 5 radioactive of radioactive materials. material Around 10,000 people evacuated after reports of people's skin melting off faces - at least 200 Minor release thought to have died of radioactive 5 Three Mile Island, U.S. 1979: material with at



Cooling malfunction at Pennsylvania least one death plant causes partial meltdown in one from radiation reactor, resulting in release of small Exposure in amount of radiation. excess of 10 Around 140,000 people evacuated times statutory no deaths or injuries reported



5 Windscale, UK, 1957: Core of Britain's first nuclear reactor catches fire, releasing cloud of radioactive material into nearby countryside. Radiation leak leads to estimated 240 cases of cancer

4 Tokaimura, Japan, 1999: Batch of highly-enriched uranium prepared



by unqualified workers, triggering nuclear reaction. Two workers killed - 100 workers and local residents treated for exposure to radiation

Source: IAFA Pictures: Getty Images, Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS